

Horwich Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31st December, 1898.

G. H. WHITAKER, M.O.H.

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Horwich Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report,

For the Year ended December 31st, 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council,

Gentlemen,

"I have pleasure in presenting my 23rd Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary condition of the District of Horwich.

The total population of the district estimated to the middle of 1898 is calculated to be 15,400.

DEATHS: The total number of deaths registered in the the Town during 1898 was 205, equal to an annual death rate of 13·3 per 1000 of population. 106 of these were males, and 99 were females.

BIRTHS: 518 births were registered during the year (294 boys and 224 girls) giving a birth rate of 33·6 per 1000 per annum.

During 1897 the deaths amounted to 247 (124 males and 123 females), a death rate of 16·3 per 1000. During the same period 520 births were registered (258 boys and 262 girls) a birth rate of 34·3 per 1000.

The Deaths are diminished by 42, and the Births by 2.

The natural increase to the population is 313.

The subjoined table shews the mortality in each of the four quarters of the year, distinguishing males and females.

	Males	Females	Total	Annual Rate per 1000
First Quarter	25	29	54	14·02
Second	19	18	37	9·6
Third	30	28	58	15·6
Fourth	32	24	56	14·5

During the same periods of the previous year the deaths amounted to 56, 74, 63, 54.

The age mortality was as follows—under one year 78; One year and under five 26; five and under fifteen 3; Fifteen and under twenty-five 7; Twenty-five and under sixty-five 62; Sixty-five and upwards 29.

INFANTILE MORTALITY: The deaths of children under five years of age numbered 104, including the death of 78 infants under the age of one year. During the year 1897, the mortality among children under five was 133, including 87 under the age of one year; there is therefore a satisfactory decrease of 29 in the present year. The infantile mortality measured in the proportion of Deaths to 1000 Births was 150 as compared with 167 in 1897.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS: The number of deaths due to the principal Zymotic diseases was 12, equal to an annual Zymotic death rate of 0.77 per 1000 of population, a decrease of 24 in comparison with 36 deaths from these ailments in 1897. The deaths were attributed to Scarlet Fever 1; Diphtheria 1; Enteric Fever 2; Puerpural Fever 2, Measles 1; and Whooping Cough 5;

DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS: Forty-one deaths were caused by these diseases a rate of 2.6 per 1000, being a slight increase of 1 on the mortality of 1897 from these causes.

Twelve deaths were due to Consumption of the Lungs, a decrease of 1 on the mortality of 1897 from this disease.

Five cases of Accidental Death occurred.

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS: The total number of notifications received throughout the year amounted to 179 against 197 received in the previous year, a decrease of 18.

The diseases notified were: Scarlet Fever 91; Enteric Fever 23; Erysipelas 45; Diphtheria 16; Puerpural Fever 3; and Membranous Croup 1.

SCARLET FEVER: This disease of Childhood shews an increase of 14 on the number of cases notified last year; it is to be hoped that the provision of hospital accommodation will have the effect of making this disease less prominent in our notification records. Fortunately only one death was registered from the complaint.

DIPHTHERIA: Sixteen cases notified against 11 in 1897. Only one death occurred, Dampness of houses and surroundings were chief causes of the cases.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP: One case only notified.

TYPHOID FEVER: Subjoined is a table giving a brief outline of the cases:—

NUMBER.	DATE OF NOTIFICATION.	LOCALITY.	TRACE-ABLE OR NOT TO A PREVIOUS CASE.	INSANITARY CONDITIONS OBSERVED.	RESULT.
1	Jan. 13	43, Oxford Rd.	A case on the premises in previous year	Number of Fowls kept about the premises	Recovery
2	Feb. 4	Brownlow Rd.	No	No insanitary conditions	„
3	Feb. 10	Abraham St.	No	None. Came into district suffering from disease	„
4	Mar. 3	Tredgold St.	No	Removed to Hospital	Fatal
5	April 9	Julia St.	No	None	Recovery
6	July 11	Chorl'y New Rd	No	None	„
7	Sept. 5	Mort St.	No	None	„
8	„ 10	Hartley St.	No	None	„
9	„ 10	Richmond St.	No	None	„
10	„ 12	Penn St.	No	Filthy Backyard	„
11	„ 29	Chorl'y New Rd	No	Removed to Hospital	Fatal
12	„ 29	Chorl'y New Rd	No	None	Recovery
13	Oct. 3	Autumn St.	No	Old Midden & Privy	Fatal
14	„ 2	Chorl'y New Rd	Yes	None	Recovery
15	„ 2	Dickenson St. W	No	Filthy unpaved back-yard	„
16	„ 8	Chorl'y New Rd	Yes	None	„
17	„ 9	Chorl'y New Rd	Yes	None	„
18	„ 10	Winter Hey L.	Yes	None	„
19	„ 8	Penn St.	Yes	See Case 10	„
20	„ 18	Chorl'y New Rd	Yes	None	„
21	„ 25	Cambridge Rd,	No	None	„
22	Nov. 5	George St.	No	Bad Drainage	„
23	Dec. 19	Mary St. E.	No	Damp house and surroundings	Fatal

This disease was not quite so prevalent as in 1897, a considerable number of the cases were obscure in origin, and mild in their course. The disease was not prevalent in September and October. Again this year we have to place free from suspicion the usual sources of this disease, viz. milk and water supplies. Active measures were taken to prevent the complaint spreading, disinfectants were freely used, the bedding disinfected, and in some cases destroyed.

PUERPURAL FEVER: Three cases notified with two deaths, one of the cases was traced to a defective soil pipe in the adjoining premises.

WHOOPIING COUGH: We experienced no serious epidemic of this disorder, five deaths were attributed to it.

MEASLES : Never extensively prevalent, only one death.

ERYSIPELAS : 45 cases notified, one case was notified three times, it being evidently a recurrent type of the disease.

SMALL POX : We had no visitation during the year.

INSPECTIONS : These are made regularly and specially, when notifications of infectious disease are received the premises are visited, and disinfectants supplied, the cases of Erysipelas excepted.

With this report I submit tables furnished by the Local Government Board, giving the mortality and sickness returns for the year.

WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT:—

OVERCROWDING : No cases came under observation.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL : Bauxite and Sulphuric Acid are the precipitants now used for the treatment of the sewage, the mixture acting satisfactorily. During the latter part of the year the polarite has been removed from the filters, and coke breeze and clinker substituted. Four new filters are in course of construction of 1650 cubic yards contents, which is more than double the capacity of the old filters.

The Scavenging of the streets is done by the Sanitary Authority.

BAKEHOUSES : These are regularly inspected, and are kept in good condition.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS : These are inspected periodically—once a quarter, and also at intervals between, evidence of overcrowding have been found, but there are no regulations defining the requisite cubic space for each animal.

LODGING HOUSES : These are regularly inspected once a fortnight; there are four of these houses, three being very clean and the sanitary arrangements good, the remaining one though clean is not in a satisfactory sanitary condition, the owner is at present under notice to make the necessary alterations.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES These are inspected once a month, they are kept in a satisfactory state. One firm of butchers had to be cautioned several times for slaughtering animals suffering from bruises.

SMOKE. 16 observations have been made respecting this nuisance cautions being given to several owners. One prosecution being undertaken, and the Council were successful in obtaining an order for abatement, and a chimney to be built 135 ft. high. 12 persons were summoned for chimney firing, and fined.

UNWHOLESOME FOOD: No cases.

NUISANCES: During the year 257 nuisances have been recorded arising from the following causes:—

Fowls kept causing a nuisance	...	...	18 cases
Waste Water Closets and Drains (with two exceptions these nuisances were caused by carelessness of occupiers	...	...	46 „
Defective Cesspools	...	...	2 „
Defective slop-pipes and spouting	...	...	27 „
Filthy & insanitary yards	12 „
Bad water supply	4 „
Smoke nuisance	3 „
Defective closets and ashpits	145 „
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Sixty were abated at once by means of a personal interview, notices served on the remaining 197 have resulted in the abatement of about 129, the others consist of old privy middens, and a laudable effort is being made to convert these into waste water closets or dry earth closets.

DISINFECTION: Thoroughly done by means of Formalin Gas and Sulphur Fumes; the rooms afterwards cleansed by the occupiers, clothing and bedding are treated by steam at a Washington Lyons Disinfector owned by the Council.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION: The only isolation hospital available is one intended for the treatment of small-pox; fortunately this has not been utilized for the past two years. The Council have now under consideration a scheme for the establishment of a hospital for the isolation of other infectious diseases. Several sites have been visited, and it is now probable that before my next annual report we may have this institution complete, and that it will be the means of diminishing the amount of infectious sickness occurring in the district.

WATER SUPPLY: Several new schemes have been under discussion with a view to augmenting the supply, but with no definite result. The supply from Montcliffe caused numberless complaints for a short time in the summer; it was remedied, but we have still the same unsatisfactory quality of its hardness. Appended are the analysis of the two supplies.

The analysis of the samples of water forwarded to Dr. J. Campbell Brown on the 23rd Sept., give the following results — expressed in parts per 100.000 :—

	SAMPLE No 1. MONTCLIFFE	SAMPLE No. 2 BLACKROD.
Total solid matter in solution ...	38·8	13·2
Organic Carbon ... }	small	small
Organic Nitrogen ... }	quantities	quantities
Ammonia	·007	·004
Ammonia from Organic matter by distillation with Alkaline Permanganate	·004	·008
Nitrogen as Nitrates & Nitrites	·000	
Nitrogen as Nitrates		·043
Combined Chlorine	1·3	1·4

MONTCLIFFE

HARDNESS—Moderate.

Contains decaying Vegetable matter and some organisms, including a few bacteria.
Nearly, but not quite pure.

BLACKROD.

HARDNESS—Soft.

Not quite clear.
Contains decaying Organic matter and living organisms,—a few bacteria.
This sample is slightly polluted, but not seriously.

Gentlemen it is a pleasure to record such a low death rate for the year 1898."

I am, Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE H. WHITAKER,

Med. Officer of Health.